

## FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Captain Isaac Paine School  
160 Foster Center Road  
Foster, RI 02825

Tuesday, December 23, 2014  
Open Session – 7:15 PM

1. **Convene Meeting** – Chair, Kathleen Swanson, called the meeting of the Foster School committee (FSC) to order at 7:15 PM on Tuesday, December 23, 2014.
  - a. *Roll Call* – all members were present: Kathleen Swanson, chair, Shelly Pezza, Vice Chair, member, Ron Cervasio, Superintendent, Dr. Caroline Caswell, and FSC Secretary, Helena McCullough.
  - b. *Pledge of Allegiance* – was recited by all in attendance.
2. **Public Comment** – there was no comment.
3. **Vote to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation –Foster Teachers’ Association.** Move this item down on the Agenda.
4. **Staff Recognition** – Dr. Caswell introduced Erin Quinlan-Randal, Reading Specialist and Instructional Coach, the Rhode Island educator winner of the 2014 Milken Educator Award. Dr. Caswell informed the audience that the award is very prestigious and came with a substantial monetary award. Erin is a mentor to beginning teachers at Captain Paine, and is enrolled in the Principal Residency Program.
5. **Housing Aid – Stage I Update** – Dr. Caswell introduced John Aharonian Architect, who was awarded the RFP stage 1 & 2 Housing Aid process.
6. **Building Use Requests** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the request of SMCT to use the cafeteria and teacher’s lounge for rehearsals and performances from January 6, 2015 through May 24, 2015. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
7. **Approval of Minutes** – a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Open and Executive Session Minutes for November 25, 2014. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
8. **Approval of Warrants** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Warrant run #11 in the amount of \$171,637.35. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
  - a. *Business Manager’s Report* – Mike Petrarca, Business Manager, provided a report for the FSC and reviewed the Line Item Transfers for FY 2014-15 in October. In November he provided a year to date Expenditure Report up to 11/20/2014 with no unforeseen activity to have an adverse effect on the budget. For December he reported line item changes to reflect an increase to the FELT program of \$18,000, which was reduced in the initial budget process but that the Town voted back (\$11,000). The FELT program is back on level footing due to additional Title 1 funds and the \$11,000 voted back at the Financial Town Meeting in May of 2014.

**9. Old Business (for discussion/action)**

- a. *Transportation – Town Charter Change for Busing* – this item is to be taken off the agenda.
- b. *Disposition of Surplus Equipment / Books – Policy #7000 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading* – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to amend Policy #7000 to add “Town of Foster, if applicable” as a priority first. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
- c. *Capital Improvement Plan* – the FSC had discussion concerning the Capital Budget Worksheet, agreeing that all requests for FY 2015-2016 were warranted. On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC approved the Capital Budget Request Worksheet 2015-2016 as presented. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.
  - 1) *Heating System*
  - 2) *Technology*
  - 3) *Well*

**10. New Business (for discussion/action)**

- a. *Budget Workshop Sessions*
  - 1) 2015-2016 Budget Comments – Chair, Kathleen Swanson, opened for comments for the upcoming budget. Discussion but no votes taken.
  - 2) Budget Calendar – the FSC scheduled a Budget Workshop for January 6, 2015 at 8:00 AM to discuss guidelines, enrollment projections, and district needs.

**11. Communication/Reports**

- a. *Correspondence* – none.
- b. *District Building Report* – Dr. Caswell updated the FSC that the District Building Committee met and discussed the Fire Cade Waiver and the Capital Improvement Plan.
- c. *Principal’s Report* – Erin Quinlan, Principal in Residence Candidate, provided the Principal’s report for the FSC.
- d. *Superintendent’s Report* – Dr. Caswell reported on NECAP results. NECAP testing will be on a future agenda.

**12. Future Agenda Items –**

- a. Policy #7000, Disposition of Surplus Equipment/Books
- b. Science NECAP
- c. Attendance Report

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio the FSC **voted to go into Executive Session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation –Foster Teachers’ Association.** Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

The FSC resumed Open Session on a Pezza / Cervasio motion. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Chair, Kathleen Swanson, reported that collective bargaining and litigation concerning the Foster Teachers’ Association was discussed. No votes were taken.

On a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to “seal” the minutes of Executive Session. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

The FSC discussed the Capital after resuming into Open Session again. The FSC voted to amend the Capital Budget Request Worksheet 2015-2016 to reflect the substantial increase to the Heater/Boiler Work to \$320,000 due to important information received after the first approval, making the total request for \$335,000. Discussion. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

13. **Adjournment** – on a motion by Ms. Pezza and seconded by Mr. Cervasio, the FSC voted to adjourn at 8:30 PM. Motion passed. Vote = 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough  
Secretary Foster School Committee